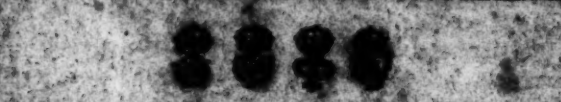
HIS MAIESTIES DECLARATION TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.

(Which He likewise recommends to the consideration of all His loving Subjects).

In answer to that presented to Him at *New-market* the 9. of *March*, 1641.



LONDON:
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MDCXLI.

His Majesties Declaration to both Houses of Parliament.

THough the *Declaration* lately presented to us at *Newmarket*, from both Our Houses of *Parliament*, bee of so strange a nature, in respect of what we expected (after so many Acts of Grace and Favour to Our People) and some expressions in it so different from the usuall Language to Princes, that we might well take a very long time to consider it; Yet the clearnesse and uprightnesse of our Conscience to God, and love to Our Subjects, hath supplyed us with a speedy Answer, and Our unalterable affection to Our People prevailed with us, to suppresse that passion, which might well enough become us, upon such an Invitation.

We have considered our Answer of the first of this month at *Theobalds*, which is urged to have given just cause of sorrow to Our subjects. Whosoever looks over that Message (which was in effect to tell us, That if we would not joyn with them, (in an Act which we conceived might prove prejudiciall and dangerous to Us and the whole Kingdom) they would make a Law without Us, and impose it upon our people) will not think that sudden Answer can be excepted to.

We have little encouragement to Replies of this nature, when we are told of how little value Our words are like to be with you, tho they come accompanied with all the actions of love and justice, where there is room for actions to accompany them) yet we cannot but disavow the having any such Evill Councel or Councellors about us, to our knowledge, as are mentioned, and if any such be discovered, We will leave them to the Censure and judgment of our *Parliament*: In the mean time, We could wish, that Our own immediate actions which We avow and Our own honour might not be so roughly censured and wounded, under that common stile of Evill Councellors. For our faithfull and zealous affection to the true protestant profession, and our resolution to concur with our *Par-*

Rumour in any possible course for the propagation of it, and suppression of Popery, we can say no more then We have already expressed in Our *Declaration* to all our loving subjects, published in Jan. last, by the advice of Our Privie Councel, in which we indeavoured to make as lively a Confession of our Self, in this point as We were able; being most assured that the constant practice of Our Life hath bin answerable thereunto: And therfore we did rather expect a Testimony and Acknowledgment of such Our Zeal and Piety, then those Expressions we meet within this *Declaration*, of any design of altering Religion in this Kingdom. And We do (out of the innocency of our soul) wish, That the Judgments of Heaven may be manifested upon those, who have, or had any such design. As for the Scots troubles, We had well thought that those unhappy differences had bin wrapt up in perpetuall silence, by the act of oblivion, which being solemnly past in the Parliaments of both Kingdoms, stops Our mouth from any other Reply then to shew Our great dislike for reviving the memory therof.

If the Rebellion in *Ireland* (so odious to all Christians) seems to have bin framed and maintained in *England*, or to have any countenance from hence we conjure both our houses of Parliament, and all Our loving Subjects whatsoever, to use all possible means to discover and find such out that We may joyne in the most exemplary vengeance upon them that can be imagined: But We must thinke Our selfe highly and causlesly injured in Our Reputation, if any Declaration, Action, or Expression of the Irish Rebels, any letter from Count *Rosettie* to the papists, for fasting and praying, or from *Trestram Whitcombe*, of strange speeches uttered in *Ireland*, shall beget any jealousie, or misapprehension in Our Subjects, of our Justice piety and affection, it being evident to all understandings, That those mischievous and wicked Rebels, are not so capable of great advantage, as by having their false discourses so far believed: as to raise Fears and Jealousies to the distraction of this Kingdom, the onely way to their security: and We cannot expresse a deeper sense of the suffering of our poor protestant subjects in that Kingdom, then we have done in Our often Messages to both Houses, by which we have offered, and are still ready to venture Our Royall Person for their

their Redemption, well knowing, that as Wee are (in our own interest) more concerned in them, so we are to make strickt accompt to Almighty God for any neglect of our duty, or their preservation.

For the manifold attempts to provoke our late Army, and the Army of the *Scots* and to raise a faction in the City of *London*, and other parts of the Kingdom; if it be said, as relating to us, we cannot without great indignation suffer our selfe to be reproached, to have intended the least force or threatning to our parliament; as the being privie to the bringing up of the Armie would imply; whereas we call God to witnesse, we never had any such thought, or knew of any such resolution concerning our late Armie.

For the petition shewed to vs by Captain *Legg*, we well remember the same, and the occasion of that conference: Captaine *Legg* being lately come out of the North, and repairing to vs at *White-hall*, we asked him of the state of our Army, & (after some relation made of it) he told vs, that the Commanders and officers of the Armie had a mind to petition the parliament, as others of our people had done and shewed vs the copy of a petition, which we read, and finding it to be very humble, desiring the parliament might receive no interruption in the reformation of the Church & State, to the modell of Queene *Elizabeths* dayes; we told him, we saw no harm in it: whereupon he replied, that he beleeved all the officers of the Army would like it, onely he thought Sir *Iacob Ashley* would be vnwilling to signe it, out of fear it might displease vs, We then read the petition over again, and when observing nothing in matter or forme we conceived could possibly give just cause of offence, we delivered it to him again, biding him to give it Sir *Iacob Ashley*, for whose satisfaction we had written C.R. upon it, to testifie our approbation; and we wish that the petition might be seene and published, and then we beleeve it will appear no dangerous one, nor a just ground for the least jealousie, or misapprehension.

For M. *Iermyn*, it is well known that he was gone from *White-Hall* before we received the desire of both Houses for the restraint of our servants, neither returned he thither, or passed over by any warrant granted by vs after that time.

For

For the breach of priviledge in the Accusation of the Lord *Kimbolton*, and the five members of the House of Commons, we thought we had given so ample satisfaction in Our several messages to that purpose, that it should be no more presied against us, being confident if the breach of Priviledge had been greater then hath bin ever before offered, Our acknowledgment and retraction hath bin greater then ever King hath given, besides the not examining how many of Our Priviledges have bin invaded in defence and vindication of the other; & therfore we hoped Our true and earnest Protestation in Our answer to your Order concerning the *Militia*, would so far have satisfied you of our intentions then, that you would no more have entertained any imagination of any other design then we there expresied. But why the listing of so many officers, & entertaining them at *Whitehall* should be misconstrued, we much marvell, when it is notoriously known, the tumults at *Westm.* were so great; and their demeanors so scandalous & seditious, that we had good cause to suppose our own person, and those of our wife and children to be in apparent danger, & therfore we had great reason to appoint a Guard about us, and to accept the ducifull tender of the services of any of Our loving subjects, which was all we did to the Gentlemen of the Inns of Court. For the Lord *Digby*, we assure you in the word of a King, that he had our warrant to passe the Seas, & had left our Court before we ever heard of the Vote of the House of Commons, or had any cause to imagine that his absence wold have binexcepted against. What your advertisements are from *Rome*, *Venice*, *Paris*, and other parts, or what the *Pope Nuntio* sollicites the Kings of *France* or *Spain* to do, or from what persons such informations come to you, or how the credit & reputation of such persons have been sifted and examined, We know not, but are confident, no sober honest man in our kingdoms can believe, that we are so desperate or so sensles, to entertain such designs, as would not only bury this our kingdom in sudden distraction and ruine, but our own Name and posterity in perpetuall scorn and infamy. And therfore we could have wished, that in matters of so high and tender a nature (wherwith the minds of our good Subjects must needs be startled) all the expressions were so plain, & easie, that nothing might

might ſtick with them with reflection upon Us, ſince you thought fit to publiſh it at all. And having now dealt thus plainly and freely with you by way of anſwer to the particular grounds of your Fears, we hope (upon a due conſideration and weighing both together) you will not find the grounds to be of that moment to beget, or longer to continue a miſunderſtanding betwixt Us, or force you to apply your ſelves to the uſe of any other power, then what the law hath given you, the which we alwais intend ſhall be the meaſure of Our own power, & expect it ſhal be the rule of our ſubjects obedience. Concerning our feats and iealouſies, as we had no intention of accuſing you, ſo are we ſure one words ſpoken by vs (on the ſudden) at *Theobalds* will bear that interpretation. We ſaid for Our reſidence neer you, we wiſht it might be ſo ſafe and honourable, that we had no cauſe to abſent our ſelf from *White-Hall*, and how this can be a breach of priviledge of parliament we cannot underſtand. We explained our meaning in our anſwer at *New-Market* at the preſentation of this Declaration concerning the printed ſeditious Pamphlets and ſermons, and and the great tumults at *Weſtminſter* And we muſt appeale to you and all the world, whether we might not juſtly ſuppoſe our ſelf in danger of either. And if we were now at *White-Hall* what ſecuritie have we, that the like ſhall not be again eſpecially if any delinquents of that nature have been apprehended by the Miniſters of juſtice and been reſcued by the people, & ſo as yet eſcape unpuniſhed? If you have not bin informed of the ſeditious words uſed in, and the circumſtances of thoſe Tumults, and will appoint ſome way for the examination of them, we wil require ſome of our learned Counſell to attend with ſuch evidence as may ſatisfie you, and till that be done, or ſome other courſe taken for our ſecurity, you cannot (with reaſon) wonder that we intend not to be where we moſt deſire to be. And can there yet want evidence of our hearty and importune deſire to joyn with our *Parliament*, and all Our faithfull ſubjects in defence of the Religion & publique good of the Kingdome? Have we given you no other earnest but words, to ſecure you of theſe deſires, the very *Remonſtrance* of the Houſe of Commons, publiſhed in *November* laſt, of the State of the Kingdome, allows Us a more reall teſtimony of our good affections then words: that *Remonſtrance* valued our Acts of grace and juſtice at ſo high a rate, that it declared the kingdom

to be then again, though it had charged it self by bils of Subsidie & Pot-money with the leavie of 600000. l. besides the contracting of a debt to our *Scot* subjects of 220000 l. And the bils for menial Parliament, for relinquishing our title of imposing upon Merchandize, for taking away the Star-chamber, and high Commission Courts, for the regulating the Councell table: but words, are the bils for the *Forest*, the *Stannaries Courts*, the Clerk of the Market, and taking away the votes of Bishops out of the Ls. House, but words; Lastly, what greater earnest of Our trust, and Reliance on our *Parliament* could or can we give, then the passing of the bil for continuance of this present *Parl.* The truth of which we hope wil never alter the nature of *Parliament*, & constitution of this Kingdom, or ins te our subjects so much to abuse our confidence, as to seem any thing fit for this *Parl.* to do, which were not, if it were in our power to dissolve it tomorrow: and after all these & many other Acts of grace in our part that we might be sure of a perfect reconciliation betwixt us and all our subjects, we have offered, & are stil ready to grant a free and generall pardon, as your selves shall think fit; now if these be not reall expressions of the affections of our soul, for the publike good of our Kingdom: We must confesse that we want stil to manifest them: to conclude, although We think our Answer already full to that point, *concerning our return to London*, We are willing to declare, that we upon it as a matter of so great weight, as with reference to the affairs of this Kingdome, and to our own inclinations and desires, that if all we can say or do can raise a mutuall confidence (the only way with Gods blessing to make us all happy) and by your incouragement the laws of the land, and the government of the City of *London* may recover some life for our security; We will overtake your desires, and be as soon with you as you can wish: and in the mean time we wil be sure that neither the businesse of *Ireland*, or any other advantage for this Kingdome shal suffer through our default, or by our absence, we being so far from repealing the Acts of our Justice and Grace, which We have already performed to Our People, that We shal with the same alacrity bee stil ready to add such new ones as may best advance the Peace, Honour, and prosperity of this Nation.

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